



THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECYCLETTER



Spring 2010

Number 83

Program Update

After several winter storms, I am sure everyone is ready for spring. As the days become longer and sunnier, activities held outside will increase. We too will start spending more time outside participating in outreach activities. We have received numerous requests for our participation in various outreach events. You will notice several events have been added to our calendar.

If you didn't attend one of our refresher trainings, take a couple of minutes to look at our web site for recent updates. Of course, if you have any questions, please contact me.

Your continued support strengthens the Division and our ability to reach the community.

Thank you for your time.

Recycling Volunteer Coordinator

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Frequently Asked Questions

How can I recycle my water filter?

Water filters are not accepted in Montgomery County's curbside recycling program and may be placed in the trash. However, Brita® has partnered with Preserve®, a manufacturer of 100 percent recycled household consumer goods, to collect and recycle Brita® pitcher filters.



Empty dried **Brita® pitcher filters** can be dropped off at any Wholefoods Market in the area or mailed to Preserve Gimme 5, 823 NYS Rte 13, Cortland, NY 13045. Through this program, the plastic from the filters will be recycled into new products such as toothbrushes or razors.



Lead Volunteers Needed!

Want to hone your leadership skills? Interested in helping as a lead volunteer? Lead volunteers help the Division of Solid Waste Services by being the lead in at least one event per year. As the lead volunteer, you will choose an event to be the lead volunteer and prior to the event you will receive an outreach material box. At the event you will be our spokesperson, manage other volunteers, and provide information about recycling and waste reduction in Montgomery County. Training is provided.

If you are interested in becoming a lead volunteer, contact Ana Arriaza at 240-777-6445 or e-mail ana.arriaza@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Test Your Knowledge!

1. Once you recycle an aluminum can, it typically returns to the shelf as part of a new aluminum can within 3 months.	True	False
2. Shredded paper cannot be recycled.	True	False
3. You can donate glass items, such as perfume bottles, drinking glasses, or vases.	True	False
4. You can recycle plastic flower pots in your commingled recycling container.	True	False
5. Wax-coated milk and juice cartons are not recyclable.	True	False
6. You recycle the plastic and metal lids and caps to containers, but you take them off the container first and then place them separately in the commingled recycling container.	True	False

Answers:
1) True 2) False 3) True 4) True 5) False 6) True

How many did you get correct?

6	You are a recycling expert! You always look for ways to recycle. Some may even consider you the recycling guru. Keep up the great work!
5-4	You are well versed in the topic of recycling. To hone your recycling skills take a few minutes to review Montgomery County's recycling web site at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling
3-2	You need remedial recycling courses. You know you should recycle, but need some guidance. To go to the next level, participate in a recycling refresher course.
1	You need intensive recycling rehabilitation! You can participate in a recycling volunteer orientation session. With time, you too can be a recycling expert.

Volunteer Training Opportunities: Lead Volunteer

Volunteers are invited to participate in a lead volunteer training session.

Wednesday,
June 23, 2010
6:00pm to 8:00pm

The **lead volunteer** training session will be held at the Executive Office Building located at 101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850.

To register, contact Ana Arriaza at 240-777-6445 or e-mail ana.arriaza@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Save the Date!

We will be honoring **YOU!** Please save the date for our Annual Volunteer Appreciation ceremony. This event is in honor of your hard work and dedication.

*Tuesday, May 25, 2010
6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.*

*Executive Office Building
Lobby Level Auditorium
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850*

**Thank you for your time and
dedication to the Recycling
Volunteer Program!**

Did You Know?

Each year, only 10 percent of unwanted cell phones are recycled.



Every ton of mixed paper recycled can save the energy equivalent of 185 gallons of gasoline.

In the U.S., it is estimated that 375 million inkjet cartridges are disposed of each year!



Americans throw away on average 68 pounds of clothing each year.

Waste cooking oil turned into biodiesel may produce 87 percent less emissions than regular diesel.



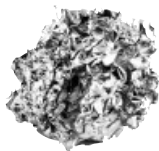
In the U.S., 290 million tires are disposed of every year.

One gallon of motor oil has the potential to contaminate one million gallons of water.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that Americans generate 1.6 million tons of Household Hazardous Waste per year.

The Organic Consumers Association estimates that 3.5 billion wire hangers are used by dry cleaners each year.

Every person in the U.S. throws away about three pounds of aluminum foil annually.



Over four million pairs of eyeglasses are thrown away each year in North America.



Source: www.earth911.com

What to do with Unwanted Medicine?



On average 20 to 60 percent of prescription medication will go unused. This brings up a problem of how to dispose of the medication properly.

It is very important to not flush medication down the toilet or pour them down the sink. Doing this will contaminate water supplies and harm wildlife.

Check with your local pharmacy to find out if they have a “take-back” program. If your pharmacy does not have a program check our online “Use it Again” database (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/useitagain) to find organizations accepting unused and unexpired medicine. Make sure to package the medicine following the organization’s guidelines.

If you can not find an organization that accepts your medicine or your medicine is expired, please dispose of the medicine properly.

To dispose of your medicine properly crush pills/capsules and mix with kitty litter or used coffee grounds, to help prevent someone from finding and consuming the medicines. Mix liquid medicine with kitty litter or coffee grounds as well and then discard the mixture in the trash.

What to do with the medicine bottles?

The great thing is that in Montgomery County you can recycle your empty medicine bottles/containers along with your commingled materials. Make sure the bottles/containers are completely empty and remove the label to protect your personal information.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES
RECYCLING VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850



Events Calendar

For more information about the events below, please contact the Recycling Volunteer Program at (240) 777-6445 or e-mail us at ana.arriaza@montgomerycountymd.gov.
All of our activities are approved Student Service Learning experiences.

Date	Time	Event	Location	
April	10	11am to 4pm	Month of the Young Child	Wheaton
	17	10am to 2pm	Earth Day Celebration	Germantown
	18	10am to 2pm	Earth Day Celebration	Wheaton
	24	11am to 4pm	Month of the Young Child	Gaithersburg
	25	12pm to 5pm	Rockville Science Day	Rockville
May	1	10am to 5pm	Azalea Festival	Bethesda
	2	10am to 5pm	Azalea Festival	Bethesda
	25	6:30pm to 7:30pm	Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony	Rockville

We will keep you updated as more events get added to the calendar!

